

from time to time. It is reviewed each year and is adopted to the need of the market with suitable modifications.

During the year 1995-96, foreign exchange worth Rs. 9,185.88 crores was earned. It is estimated that during 1996-97 the country would earn foreign exchange worth Rs. 10,607 crores.

Production of Zinc and Lead

1762 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the position of production of zinc and lead during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production of these products is not sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production;

(d) whether the Hindustan Zinc Limited is one of the leading company dealing with the above production;

(e) if so, the performance of the company during the last three years;

(f) whether Hindustan Zinc Limited proposes to export these products; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The annual estimated demand, total production of primary zinc and lead metals in the country and the production of M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited (given in brackets), the leading public sector producer of these products during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Unit Tonnes				
	Zinc		Lead		
	Demand	Production	Demand	Production	
1	2	3	4	5	
1993-94	158000	143962 (119879)	73000	35179 (25299)	

	1	2	3	4	5
1994-95	192000	148424 (119807)	75000	44993 (34476)	
1995-96	202000	141374 (115464)	80000	40316 (27848)	

The gap between demand and primary production has been met by imports and recycling of scrap, secondaries etc. Also, M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited in the public sector and M/s Binani Zinc Limited in the private sector have plans for expansion of their production capacities for zinc metal and M/s Indian Lead Limited in the private sector for lead metal.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

PDS Issue Prices

1763. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of hike in issue prices of Public Distribution System during the last three years;

(b) the date on which the above prices were hiked last;

(c) whether the Government are considering to increase further the above prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which such hike is likely to be effective;

(f) whether the Government have a consensus on the issue; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The details of Central Issue Price during the last three years are as under :

	Effective from	Common	PDS Fine	(Rs in quintal)		
				Super Fine	Common	RPDS Fine
Rice	11.1.93	437	497	518	387	447
	01.2.94	537	617	648	487	567
Wheat	28.12.91	280	230	Imported edible oil		
	11.01.93	330	280	04.01.92		
	01.02.94	402	352	21.07.94		
				22000		
				24000		
				15 kg tin		
				25000		
				27000		
				598		